

2023 ECONOMIC REPORT SOUTHEAST REGION



DEPARTMENT OF
HIGHER EDUCATION &
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Southeast Region is comprised of 13 counties in the southeast portion of Missouri. The region is home to several cities including Cape Girardeau, Sikeston, Caruthersville, and Park Hills.

The Southeast Region workforce has 157,290 employees, making up 5.3 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2022, 50.0 percent of the workforce was female and 50.0 percent was male, compared to Missouri's overall 48.9 percent female and 51.1 percent male. The regional average unemployment rate in 2022 was 2.8 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the Southeast Region, a trend continuing throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2022, 23.7 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 20 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 11.5 percent of the workforce was non-white and 2.6 percent was Hispanic or Latino. This compares to the state averages of 18.1 percent non-white and 4.9 percent Hispanic or Latino.

In the Southeast Region, 3.2 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7.1 percent and the U.S. was at 23.7 percent.

The Southeast Region has a higher percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state and the nation. For the Southeast Region, 17.4 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12.3 percent in Missouri and 10.3 percent in the U.S.

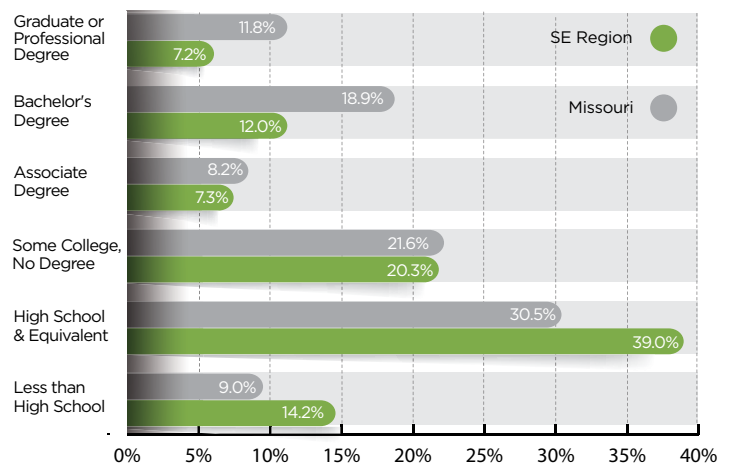
Workforce Demographics

	SE Region	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2022	157,290	2,984,340	158,291,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2022	2.8%	2.5%	3.6%
Male	50.0%	51.1%	51.5%
Female	50.0%	48.9%	48.5%
Non-White	11.5%	18.1%	24.2%
Hispanic or Latino	2.6%	4.9%	17.4%
Ages 55 and Older	23.7%	22.5%	22.8%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	17.4%	12.3%	10.3%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	16.5%	12.5%	11.7%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	3.2%	7.1%	23.7%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher	26.5%	38.9%	42.4%
Veterans (Age 18-64)	4.9%	4.9%	4.5%

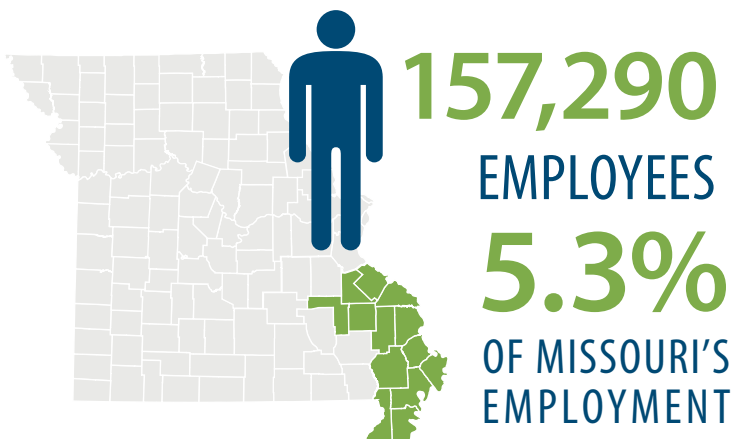
SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2021-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2022

Educational attainment rates for the Southeast Region are lower than those of the state for bachelor's or advanced degrees. Twenty-seven percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 39 percent for the state, and about 42 percent for the nation. About 14.2 percent of the region's population of age 25 and older has less than high school education.

Educational Attainment



SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, ACS 2021 5 YEAR ESTIMATES

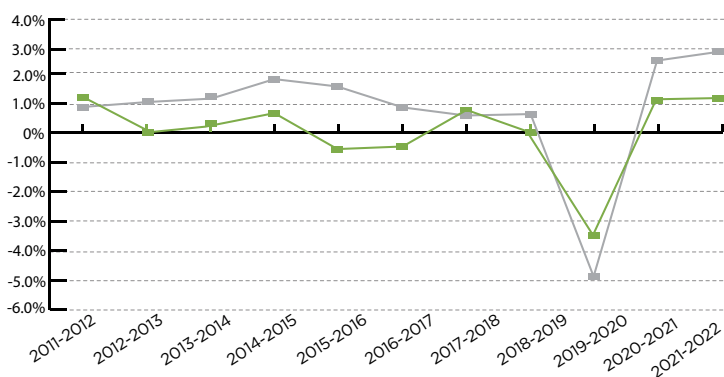


SOUTHEAST REGION

INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The Southeast Region averaged over 137,700 jobs in 2022. The region gained 1,625 jobs, an increase of 1.2 percent, from 2021 to 2022. From 2018 to 2022, the Southeast Region averaged a decrease of 0.3 percent compounded annually for an overall decrease of 1.3 percent. During that same period (2018-2022) Missouri had a compound annual employment gain of 0.2 percent for an overall gain of 0.9 percent.

Southeast Employment Annual Growth Rate



Health Care and Social Assistance is the largest employing industry in the region, even though it lost 1,439 in employment in 2022 when compared to 2018. *Manufacturing* is the second largest industry, followed by *Retail Trade* and *Accommodation and Food Services*.

More than half of the industry sectors in the Southeast Region lost employment between 2018 and 2022, except *Retail Trade*; *Accommodation and Food Services*; *Transportation and Warehousing*; *Finance and Insurance*; and *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services*.

Southeast Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	Employment		2018-2022		2021 Annual Wages
	2018	2022	Net Change	Empl. CAGR	
Health Care & Social Assistance	31,432	29,993	-1,439	-0.9%	\$41,220
Manufacturing	18,359	17,572	-787	-0.9%	\$57,396
Retail Trade	16,254	17,302	1,048	1.3%	\$34,272
Accommodation & Food Services	10,915	11,194	279	0.5%	\$19,836
Educational Services	10,907	10,187	-720	-1.4%	\$36,876
Construction	6,769	6,535	-234	-0.7%	\$53,796
Public Administration	6,869	5,887	-982	-3.0%	\$38,220
Wholesale Trade	6,159	5,750	-409	-1.4%	\$59,220
Transportation & Warehousing	4,942	5,430	488	1.9%	\$52,608
Administrative & Support & Waste Management & Remediation Services	5,199	4,210	-989	-4.1%	\$40,860
Finance & Insurance	3,906	4,101	195	1.0%	\$60,888
Prof., Scientific, & Tech. Services	3,143	3,725	582	3.5%	\$61,476

SOURCE: LEHD QWI, 2018 Q3-2022 Q3

LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries with higher than 1.0 LQ indicate a concentration.

The Southeast Region has higher concentrations in *Gasoline Stations and Fuel Dealers*; *Crop Production*; *Social Assistance*; *Truck Transportation*; and *Nursing and Residential Care Facilities*.

 **HIGHEST 2022**
LQ 3.1
GASOLINE STATIONS

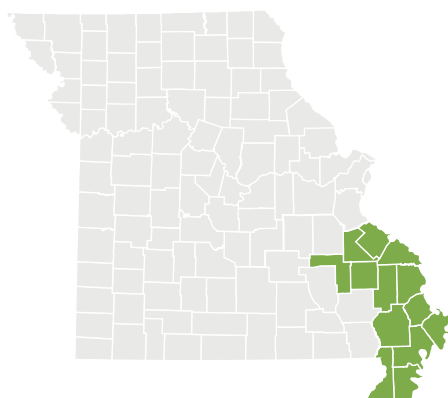
2022 Southeast Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Gasoline Stations & Fuel Dealers	2,906	3.1
Crop Production	1,412	2.8
Social Assistance	8,426	2.2
Truck Transportation	2,937	2.0
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	5,097	1.9
Support Activities for Agriculture and Forestry	556	1.6
General Merchandise Retailers	4,359	1.5
Wood Product Manufacturing	575	1.5
Health & Personal Care Retailers	1,439	1.4
Building Material & Supplies Dealers	1,777	1.4
Mining (except Oil and Gas)	225	1.4
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	2,438	1.3
Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	490	1.3
Sporting Goods, Hobby, & Book Retailers	1,683	1.2

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QUARTERLY CENSUS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES 2022

SOUTHEAST REGION

Projected growth in industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest industry growth in the Southeast Region from 2020-2030 will be in the *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services*; *Crop Production*; *Ambulatory Health Care Services*; *Merchant Wholesalers*; and *Couriers and Messengers* industries.



Southeast Region Largest Growth Industries 2020-2030

Industry	Employment		Change	
	2020 Estimated	2030 Projected	2020-2030 Numeric	2020-2030 Percent
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	3,163	3,700	537	17.0%
Crop Production	3,978	4,351	373	9.4%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	7,065	7,376	311	4.4%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	3,035	3,264	229	7.6%
Couriers & Messengers	549	765	216	39.3%
Amusement, Gambling, & Recreation Industries	876	1,054	178	20.3%
Real Estate	939	1,076	137	14.6%
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	6,022	6,144	122	2.0%
Truck Transportation	2,928	3,037	109	3.7%
Repair & Maintenance	1,128	1,220	92	8.2%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

MERIC produces occupational projections that estimates labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

Now jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. **Now** occupations with the most projected openings are *Home Health and Personal Care Aides*; *Cashiers*; and *Fast Food and Counter Workers*. *Bartenders*; *Driver/Sales Workers*; and *Hosts and Hostesses, Restaurant, Lounge, and Coffee Shop* are projected to be the fastest growing **Now** occupations over the next decade.

Next jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. *Nursing Assistants*; *Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers*; and *Cooks* are projected to have the most openings for the **Next** category of occupations. *Cooks*; *Woodworking Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders*; and *Industrial Machinery Mechanics* are the fastest growing **Next** occupations.

Later jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For **Later** occupations, *General and Operations Managers*; *Registered Nurses*; and *Accountants and Auditors* are projected to have the most openings. *Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists*; *Accountants and Auditors*; and *General and Operations Managers* are the fastest growing **Later** occupations.


Southeast Region Fastest Growing Occupations



NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH ANNUAL TOTAL OPENINGS OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED
SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

SOUTHEAST REGION

Southeast Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings




Occupation	2020 Estimated Employment	2030 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
 NOW							
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	8,476	9,191	72	566	500	1,138	\$22,976
Cashiers	4,201	3,961	-24	347	391	714	\$21,551
Fast Food & Counter Workers	3,101	3,392	29	315	343	687	\$20,630
Retail Salespersons	3,923	3,944	2	220	325	547	\$23,300
Stockers & Order Fillers	2,484	2,646	16	146	250	412	\$24,093
 NEXT							
Nursing Assistants	3,514	3,475	-4	224	198	418	\$25,330
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	3,132	3,305	17	132	218	367	\$51,603
Cooks, Restaurant	1,299	1,858	56	93	135	284	\$22,035
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	1,561	1,611	5	56	92	153	\$35,745
Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	1,393	1,308	-8	79	69	140	\$33,625
 LATER							
General & Operations Managers	2,648	2,804	16	54	169	239	\$63,644
Registered Nurses	3,486	3,441	-4	92	87	175	\$58,178
Accountants & Auditors	1,326	1,426	10	38	82	130	\$51,484
Secondary School Teachers, Ex. Spec. & Tech. Edu.	1,623	1,633	1	43	66	110	\$43,878
Market Research Analysts & Marketing Specialists	523	634	11	14	42	67	\$43,746

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

ONLINE JOB POSTINGS

Job postings are an indicator of demand and opportunities in an area, and can assist individuals seeking job opportunities in current in-demand occupations. According to information based on online job posting data collected and aggregated by Lightcast™ for the Southeast Region, jobs like *Registered Nurses*; *Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers*; and *Retail Salespersons* had a high number of job postings in the region during the last year.

Southeast Region Top Five Online Job Postings in Now-Next-Later Classification

Occupation Title	Online Job Postings
 NOW	
Retail Salespersons	600
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	460
Fast Food & Counter Workers	380
Customer Service Representatives	250
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	240
 NEXT	
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	730
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	580
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	350
Food Service Managers	340
Merchandise Displayers & Window Trimmers	320
 LATER	
Registered Nurses	1,200
Physical Therapists	160
Medical & Health Services Managers	150
Physicians, All Other	150
Occupational Therapists	140

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST™, ONLINE JOB ADS FROM MAY 1, 2022 - APRIL 30, 2023

This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as part of the Missouri Workforce Report. All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. Additional details on data sources can be found in the full report. This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.